

Message Text

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FOLL SENT ACTION BANGKOK FROM SECSTATE 15 MAY 73 REPEATED TO YOU
QUOTE

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E. O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: UPDATED CONTROL ACTION PLAN FOR
THAILAND

REF: BANGKOK 3700; BANGKOK 3633; TOAID A-177 OF 4/18/73

1. EA INTER- AGENCY WORKING GROUP HAS REVIEWED UPDATED
NARCOTICS CONTROL ACTION PLAN (NCAP) FOR THAILAND AND IS
PLEASED WITH INCREASED RTG CONCERN WITH PROBLEM, GROWING
SIZE OF SEIZURES, SENTENCING OF PRAMUAN, POLICE RE-
ORGANIZATION, AND FIRST MAJOR TRAWLER INTERDICTION.

2. BEFORE FINAL CONSIDERATION NCAP, HOWEVER, WORKING
GROUP REQUESTS MISSION COMMENTS ON NUMBER OF ISSUES. WE
WISH TO TAKE A CLOSE LOOK AT ALL ASPECTS OF SITUATION
BECAUSE THAILAND REMAINS A MAJOR TRAFFICKING ROUTE IN
SOUTHEAST ASIA AND CONSTANT TARGET OF CONGRESSIONAL
CRITICISM (SENATOR HARTKE INTRODUCED A BILL MAY 1
PROHIBITING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THAILAND, LAOS AND
BURMA AND CERTAIN NEA COUNTRIES FOR ALLEGEDLY NOT TAKING
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ADEQUATE MEASURES TO END ILLICIT OPIUM PRODUCTION AND SALE).

3. TROUBLESOME ISSUES REMAINING IN PROGRAM PICTURE FOR THAILAND INCLUDE CONTINUED LOW PRICE OF OPIATES IN BANGKOK, OBVIOUSLY LARGE AMOUNTS LEAVING THAILAND BY TRAWLER TO HONG KONG AND PROBABLY VIA OTHER ROUTES AND DESTINATIONS AS WELL, THE COMPLICITY OF LOW-LEVEL THAI OFFICIALS IN TRAFFICKING IN THE TRI-BORDER AREA, THE CONTINUED PRESENCE IN NORTHERN THAILAND OF BURMESE DISSIDENTS WHO ARE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING, AND PERSISTENT REPORTS OF CONTINUED CIF INVOLVEMENT IN TRAFFICKING IN SPITE OF THE RESETTLEMENT AGREEMENT (AND LITTLE RTG MONEY GOING TO RESETTLEMENT SCHEMES THEMSELVES).

4. WE REALIZE THAT TACKLING THESE PROBLEMS EXTENDS FROM NARCOTICS INTO BROADER, DEEPLY ROOTED PROBLEMS WITHOUT IMMEDIATE AND EASY SOLUTIONS. NONETHELESS, IN THE CASE OF THE CIF GENERAL KRIANGSAK GAVE REPEATED AND CATEGORICAL ASSURANCES DURING THE NEGOTIATION OF THE RESETTLEMENT PLAN THAT THE RTG HAD SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE TO CONTROL THE CIF AND KEEP THEM OUT OF FUTURE TRAFFICKING. THERE WAS EVEN TALK OF USING THE CIF AGAINST THE CARAVANS AND PLANS TO REDUCE THEIR HEAVY WEAPONS AND NUMBER OF MULES. SINCE THE APPROVAL OF THE RESETTLEMENT PLAN, GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S ARGUMENTS HAVE SHIFTED TO NUMEROUS REASONS WHY TRAFFICKING INTO NORTHERN THAILAND CANNOT BE STOPPED (E. G. THE "OTHER" 10,000 CIF IN NORTHERN THAILAND, THE BURMA SANCTUARY) IN DEFENSE AGAINST OUR CHARGES OF CONTINUING CIF INVOLVEMENT. IN SPITE OF GENERAL KRIANGSAK'S EARLIER ASSURANCES, IT IS CLEAR THAT THE RTG IS RELYING HEAVILY ON THE CIF AS A COUNTER-INSURGENCY FORCE AND IS NOT KEEPING UP ITS END OF THE BARGAIN WITH US TO GET THEM OUT OF THE GUNS-FOR-OPIUM NETWORK.

5. WE HOPE THAT MISSION WILL BRING INCREASED PRESSURE ON RTG TO ACT ON THESE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. PERHAPS SANITIZED INTELLIGENCE REPORTS COULD BE TURNED OVER ON A MUCH MORE REGULAR BASIS AS ONE MEANS OF DOING SO. MISSION COMMENTS ON OTHER WAYS TO APPLY LEVERAGE FOR ACTION ARE REQUESTED.

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6. A-3995 OF APRIL 20, 1972 MADE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVING AIR TRAFFICKING INTERDICTION MEASURES IN THAILAND SUCH AS MORE SPOT INSPECTIONS, GREATER ATTENTION TO PRIVATE AIRCRAFT AND CROSS BORDER FLIGHTS AND OTHERS. WORKING GROUP BELIEVES THAT IMPROVEMENT MEASURES SHOULD BE INCORPORATED INTO NCAP AND REQUESTS MISSION ASSESSMENT ON

PROGRESS MADE TO DATE.

7. WORKING GROUP IS GIVING MORE ATTENTION TO ACETIC ANHYDRIDE IMPORTS INTO SOUTHEAST ASIA AND THE POSSIBILITIES OF BETTER MONITORING THEIR FLOW TO ILLICIT CONSUMERS. WE NEED TO HAVE MORE DETAILS OF RTG CONTROLS, IF ANY, MONITORING EFFORTS, AND MISSION'S SUGGESTIONS FOR ANY NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS THAT COULD BE INCLUDED AS GOALS IN THE NCAP.

8. IN VIEW STATUS AERIAL SURVEY PROJECT, MISSION SHOULD MOVE FORWARD WITH VARIOUS RTG MINISTRIES TO DEVELOP COMPREHENSIVE HIGHLAND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED TOWARD EVENTUAL ELIMINATION OF OPIUM PRODUCTION. REF TOAID A-177, MISSION SHOULD PROCEED WITH DISCUSSIONS WITH RTG ON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH STATION PROJECT.

9. IN AREAS OF EDUCATION/ TREATMENT/ REHABILITATION, WE ARE SEEKING GUIDELINES FROM SPECIAL ACTION OFFICE FOR DRUG ABUSE PROGRAMS (SAODAP) AS TO WHAT TYPES OVERSEAS PROJECTS MAY BE POSSIBLE.

10. STILL MISSING FROM UPDATED NCAP ARE INPUTS FROM ALL MISSION ELEMENTS. BANGKOK 3633 COVERED AID FUNDED PROJECTS ONLY. REQUEST SUBMISSION ASAP. RWSH UNQUOTE RUSH

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